

4-18-22 Middletown Township Committee Meeting

A video of this meeting can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX_XOLMf_WM

The meeting opened with a proclamation recognizing April 2022 as National Donate Life Month. There were 3 speakers to explain the significance of being an organ donor, someone that was related to an organ donor and a person that actually received a donated kidney.

A public hearing was held on an ordinance to borrow and appropriate \$1.4M to construct a skateboard park on the roller hockey court located at Kunkle Park, in Leonardo. Questions were raised as to why issues that took place at the former skateboard park in Pt. Monmouth would not happen again. The Mayor explained that the new park will not have equipment that bicycles could use, the park is located in an open area by the Henry Hudson Trail, there are cameras located at the park to deter vandalism and the area will be fenced in with a lock. When asked if a police officer would need to be onsite, as at the former location, it was said that the cameras, lighting and additional security would be sufficient. When asked about the former skateboard park equipment, the Administrator said that the old equipment was not useable and had to be discarded. A gentleman asked how the loud music could be controlled coming from the users music boxes, as is now the case, no solution could be produced. It was asked what time the area would be locked up and secured, again no answer was provided. A vote was taken and the ordinance was adopted with a 4-0 vote.

Another public hearing to borrow and appropriate \$1.4M for various capital purposes, such as the purchase of powered air purifying respirators for the Health Department, a show mobile, a permanent canopy structure for the Arts Center, senior center improvements, a street sweeper, excavator, road paving equipment and gym equipment for the Administration Department. Questions were raised as to the need for such purposes. It was explained, by the Mayor and Administrator that a show mobile was a trailer that served as an enclosed stage and that a current show mobile has degraded to the point of needing replacement. The canopy will be built along the rear of the Arts Center to serve as an area to be utilized by participants in activities that require protection from the weather elements. The street sweeper will replace one of the two current sweepers that is inoperable. The road paving equipment will allow township employees to mill and pave the streets and large potholes in the township. It was explained that the gym equipment will be used by all township employees, including the police officers who currently have a gym. This equipment will supplement the current gym equipment. A vote was taken and the ordinance was adopted with a 4-0 vote.

An ordinance was introduced to amend the Municipal Code governing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages. A public hearing will be conducted before a vote to adopt this ordinance.

A resolution was introduced to amend the introduced 2022 Municipal Budget. It was approved with a vote of 4-0.

Another resolution was introduced to adopt the 2022 Municipal Budget. When no members of the public offered any comments, a vote of 4-0 to adopt the budget was taken.

A Consent Agenda was introduced to approve the remaining resolutions, including contracts for tree trimming services and engineering services for site investigations at various parks. Also included in the Consent agenda was the payment of Township bills up to April 18, disposition of surplus property and the purchase of a Chevy Tahoe SUV. The consent agenda was approved with a vote of 4-0.

During Committee Comments, Committeewoman Kratz thanked the speakers, regarding the organ donor program, for coming in to speak. She congratulated 65, 5th grade students from Ocean Ave., New Monmouth and Harmony Schools for graduating from the Project Plus Program.

Committeeman Clark echoed Committeewoman Kratz's comments about organ donors. He announced that he is an organ donor. He was proud to be a part of the Lincroft Little League Parade last weekend and that he played in that league when he was a child.

Committeeman Hibell thanked the presenters of the organ donor proclamation for their stories.

Mayor Perry did not have any comments to make.

During the public comments portion of the meeting a number of residents from the Pearl St and Harmony Rd area came to express their dissatisfaction in the Townships efforts in controlling a dog in their neighborhood. Some were saying that when they walk on Pearl St. a dog comes out and attacks them and their pets. One woman was holding her dog above her head to protect it from being attacked when she was attacked, herself, and bitten on the arm. It was said that numerous calls were made to the police and Animal Control and no resolution has been achieved. The Administrator said that the dog is aggressive and was removed for a while, but recently returned. The Mayor said that all of their contact information would be taken and a meeting will be set up with the Administrator, the Police Chief and the head of Animal Control to resolve this issue. Other residents expressed concerns for little children in strollers and some are avoiding this street altogether.